(b) the details of main subjects discussed and the decision taken in the meeting;

(c) whether the meeting reviewed the progress made on the decisions taken in the earlier meeting; and

(d) if so, the complete details thereof and if not the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes Sir. The fourth meeting of Group-20 (G-20) Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors was held at New Delhi during 22-23 November 2002.

(b) The meeting reviewed the global economic situation and deliberated on matters concerning crisis prevention and resolution, globalization, the challenge of achieving sustained growth and development and combating the financing of terror. The G-20 is an informal mechanism for dialogue among systematically important countries within the framework of the Bretton Woods institutional system with a view to promoting international financial stability, thus as such, the forum is not a "decision making" body.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, the G-20 Ministerial of New Delhi reviewed and continued to build on previous discussions. In particular, with reference to the theme of Globalization, the meeting reviewed progress in preparation of member case studies. It was agreed that a G-20 publication on "Globalization Case Studies" will be brought out with the assistance of the World Bank and an Editorial Committee of the G-20 headed by India was constituted for this purpose. On combating the financing of terrorism, the participants reviewed the progress made in implementing G-20 Action Plan and agreed to continue efforts to eliminate other abuses of the financial system, particularly money laundering.

IFCI in dire financial straits

3275. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Industrial Financial Corporation of India (IFCI Limited) is in dire financial straits;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a few top industrialists in the country

who are Members of the Prime Minister's Trade and Advisory Council and who are associated with some leading Business Houses owe a substantial amount to the IFCI Limited as outstanding loans; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps proposed to be taken to recover the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The IFCI Limited has been facing liquidity constraint and has also been incurring operational losses. Consequently, it has not been able to meet the regulatory norms in respect of Capital Adequacy and Borrowings *visa-vis* Net Owned Funds.

(c) and (d) The IFCI has reported that certain Groups of Companies, with whom 6 industrialists are associated and who are members of the Prime Minister's Trade and Advisory Council, owed a sum of Rs. 89.59 crore out of total outstanding assistance of Rs. 2222.31 crore and interest of Rs. 195.57 crore as on 31.12.2002. For recovery of defaults, various steps including restructuring and vigorous follow-up are being adopted by IFCI Limited.

In accordance with the practice and usages customary among the banks and in conformity with the provisions of the statutes governing the financial institutions as also provisions of the Public Financial Institutions (Obligations as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, information in respect of the individual constituents of the Public Financial Institutions cannot be divulged.

Fiscal freedom to States

3276. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been demanding fiscal freedom for the State Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any formal request to this effect has been received by Government; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?